

# THE "NET"



Lincoln Business Watch

Spring Issue

## Construction Site Burglaries: Changing Directions

Warmer weather is around the corner. That usually means construction site burglary numbers will increase. Prior trends have shown that construction tools were target items taken most often. However, recently there has been a drastic increase in the number of reports taken involving thefts of copper supplies. Copper tubing and pipe have become attractive to thieves. Recycling centers pay close to two dollars a pound for new materials and slightly less for used. This type of “recycling” has become quite lucrative. Thieves go to the extent of cutting down sections of copper into scrap lengths. This is a fast and easy way to get money. With no way to trace these items, a person can come and go without being noticed. In contrast, pawning and selling tools has become much more difficult. Model and serial numbers must be present for pawn shops to accept items. Identification and fingerprints are also required at the time of sale. Communication between police and pawn shops have made tools less of a hot commodity.

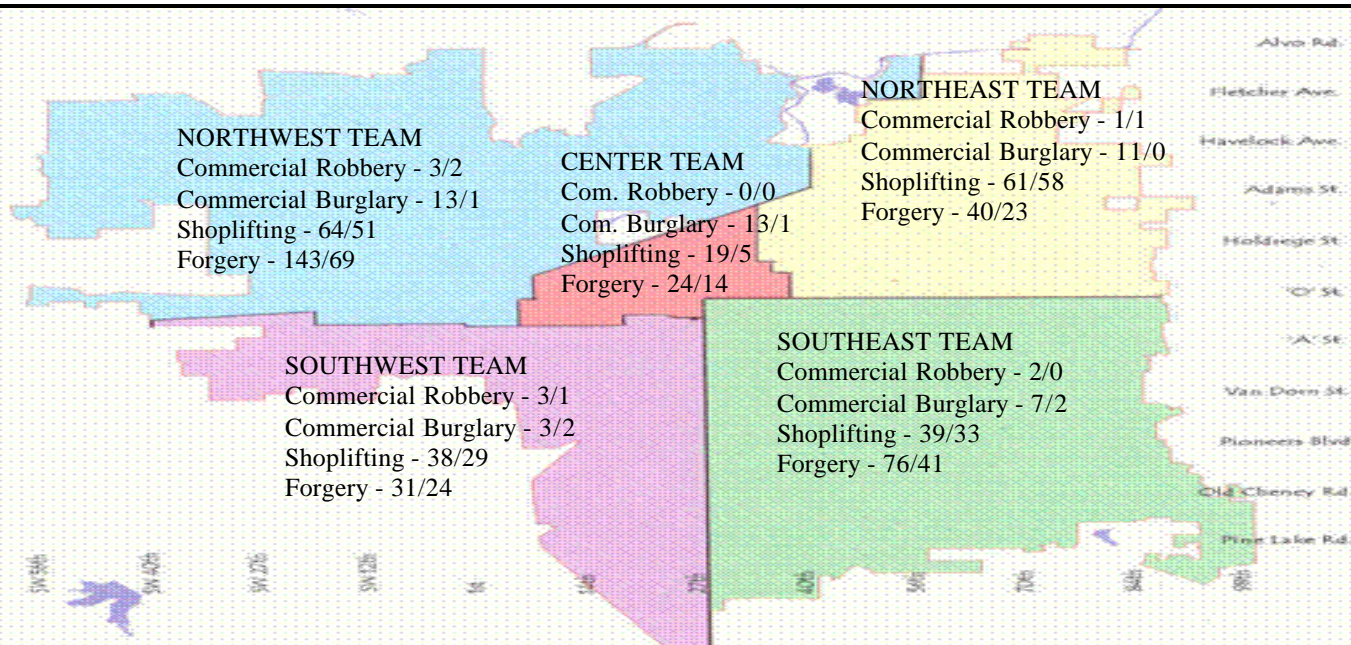


Recent incidents in town have found suspects are rummaging through construction sites. When possible they entering homes to remove any valuable metals they can find to sell. Thieves have gone as far as cutting away existing pipes in air conditioners and furnaces. In another case rolls of copper tubing, heavy enough to need two people to carry, were taken from a new home.

In a time when construction costs are at a high price, great care and attention needs to be taken to protect your business. Keep in mind that although the current trend appears to be changing, a thief will take whatever they can get their hands on. Nothing is ever safe if left out for all to see.

## CRIME TRENDS

Between 1-1-06 thru 2-28-06 The first number will be the number of reported incidents. The second number is how many incidents have been cleared with an arrest.



## **“The NET”**

Lincoln Police Department  
Crime Prevention Unit  
575 S. 10th Street  
Lincoln NE 68508

**Return Service Requested**

### **Counterfeit Money Orders**

In the last issue the problem of counterfeit currency was addressed. Counterfeit checks and money orders have also been on the increase. There are a number of different types of money orders. If you come across a money order or cashier's check that you feel is questionable. Contact either the police department or the bank branch who issued the payment order. Money orders issued through the postal service are the Domestic and International Money Orders. These types of money orders are used most often in internet scams. These orders have prominent security features that distinguish them from other financial instruments. Hold the money order in front of a light source and look for these features:

- \* A watermark of Benjamin Franklin is visible on both the front and reverse side of the money order when held up in front of the light.
- \* A dark security thread running (top to bottom) to the right of the Franklin watermark, with the tiny letters USPS facing backward and forward
- \* Denominations appear in two locations. If the denomination amounts are discolored, that indicates they have been erased.
- \* Postal Money Orders are never sequentially numbered, which is common with counterfeiters.

Domestic Money Orders cannot exceed \$1,000.00. They are distinguished by their green, yellow and blue colors. Most of the counterfeit Postal Money Orders are Domestic, with a face value of \$750.00 to \$950.00.

In contrast, International Money Orders are printed in pink, yellow and gold and cannot exceed a value of \$700.00. Counterfeit international money orders have increased with printed values of \$500.00 to \$700.00.

For additional information regarding counterfeit money orders check the following web sites:

- [http://www.fraudguides.com/internet\\_counterfeit\\_money\\_orders.asp](http://www.fraudguides.com/internet_counterfeit_money_orders.asp)
- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Money\\_order](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Money_order)



International Postal Money Order



Domestic Postal Money Order



Close-up of Benjamin Franklin watermark and security thread